

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing unit for executing predetermined processing in response to a user input, comprising:

a key input section provided with a plurality of keys, for inputting data assigned to a pressed key;

a coordinate input section for performing a coordinate input according to a user's finger contact operation; and

key-assignment control means for changing key assignment in the key input section according to the result of detection of a user's finger contact, obtained by the coordinate input section.

2. An information processing unit according to Claim 1, wherein the key-assignment control means applies key assignment for usual key input operations to each key of the key input section while the coordinate input section does not detect the contact of a user's finger, and changes key assignment to a specific key of the key input section in response to the fact that the coordinate input section has detected the contact of a user's finger.

3. An information processing unit according to Claim 1, wherein the key-assignment control means assigns a function

for designating an input-coordinate selection operation to a home-position key in the key input section in response to the fact that the coordinate input section has detected the contact of a user's finger.

4. An information processing unit according to Claim 1, wherein the key-assignment control means assigns a menu selection function or another function to a key in the key input section in response to the fact that the coordinate input section has detected the contact of a user's finger.

5. An information processing unit according to Claim 1, wherein the coordinate input section determines that a user's finger has contacted, according to the fact that the user's finger was detected within a past predetermined period.

6. An information processing unit according to Claim 1, further comprising designated-area storage means for storing the content of a designated area in response to the fact that the coordinate input section designates the area while a predetermined key is being pressed in the key input section and that the predetermined key is then released.

7. An information processing unit according to Claim 6,

further comprising designated-area duplication means for duplicating the content stored by the designated-area storage means at a designated position, in response to the fact that the coordinate input section designates the position while a predetermined key is being pressed in the key input section and that the predetermined key is then released.

8. A control method for an information processing unit provided with a key input section and a coordinate input section, for performing an operation according to a user input operation, the control method comprising:

- a step of determining whether a user operation has been performed for the key input section;

- a step of detecting the contact of a user's finger on the coordinate input section;

- a step of performing a process according to the position of the contact of the user's finger on the coordinate input section; and

- a step of interpreting the user operation performed for the key input section according to whether or not the contact of the user's finger on the coordinate input section has occurred.

9. A control method for the information processing

unit for performing an operation according to a user input operation, according to Claim 8, wherein, in the step of interpreting the user operation performed for the key input section, key assignment for usual key input operations is applied to each key of the key input section while the coordinate input section does not detect the contact of a user's finger, and key assignment to a specific key of the key input section is changed in response to the fact that the coordinate input section has detected the contact of a user's finger.

10. A control method for the information processing unit for performing an operation according to a user input operation, according to Claim 8, wherein, in the step of interpreting the user operation performed for the key input section, a function for designating an input-coordinate selection operation is assigned to a home-position key in the key input section in response to the fact that the coordinate input section has detected the contact of a user's finger.

11. A control method for the information processing unit for performing an operation according to a user input operation, according to Claim 8, wherein, in the step of interpreting the user operation performed for the key input

section, a menu selection function or another function is assigned to a key in the key input section in response to the fact that the coordinate input section has detected the contact of a user's finger.

12. A control method for the information processing unit for performing an operation according to a user input operation, according to Claim 8, wherein, in the step of detecting the contact of a user's finger on the coordinate input section, it is determined that a user's finger has contacted, according to the fact that the user's finger was detected within a past predetermined period.

13. A control method for the information processing unit for performing an operation according to a user input operation, according to Claim 8, the control method further comprising a designated-area storage step of storing the content of a designated area in response to the fact that the coordinate input section designates the area while a predetermined key is being pressed in the key input section and that the predetermined key is then released.

14. A control method for the information processing unit for performing an operation according to a user input operation, according to Claim 13, the control method further

comprising a designated-area duplication step of duplicating the content stored in the designated-area storage step at a designated position, in response to the fact that the coordinate input section designates the position while a predetermined key is being pressed in the key input section and that the predetermined key is then released.

15. A computer program having described, in a computer readable format, an operation performed to a user input operation, of a computer system provided with a key input section and a coordinate input section, the computer program comprising:

- a step of determining whether a user operation has been performed for the key input section;

- a step of detecting the contact of a user's finger on the coordinate input section;

- a step of performing a process according to the position of the contact of the user's finger on the coordinate input section; and

- a step of interpreting the user operation performed for the key input section according to whether or not the contact of the user's finger on the coordinate input section has occurred.

16. An information processing method for executing

predetermined processing in response to a user input,  
comprising steps of:

receiving key input information according to user's key  
input operation on key input means;

receiving coordinate input information according to  
user's finger contact operation on coordinate input means;

recognizing the user input based on the received key  
input and coordinate input information, wherein the key  
assignment of the key input information being changed when  
the received coordinate input information is in predefined  
state; and

executing the processing in response to the recognized  
user input.